

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A sputtering target, comprising:  
a target surface component comprising a target material;  
a core backing component having a coupling surface and a back surface, wherein  
the coupling surface is coupled to the target surface component; and  
at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the  
core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the  
effective surface area of the core backing component, and wherein all of the  
effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with  
cooling fluid.
2. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 1, wherein the target material comprises a  
metal, a metal alloy or a combination thereof.
3. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 2, wherein the metal or metal alloy  
comprises a transition metal.
4. (Currently Amended) The sputtering target of claim [[3]] 2, wherein the ~~transition  
metal~~ or metal alloy comprises copper, aluminum or titanium.
5. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 1, wherein the at least one surface area  
feature comprises at least one concave feature, at least one convex feature or a  
combination thereof.
6. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one concave feature  
comprises at least one concentric indentation.
7. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one concave feature  
comprises a dimple.

8. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises a plurality of linear channels.
9. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a plurality of linear ridges or protrusions.
10. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a bump.
11. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 5, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises at least one concentric ridge or protrusion.
12. (Currently Amended) A sputtering target, comprising:  
a target surface component comprising a target material;  
a core backing component having a coupling surface and a back surface, wherein  
the coupling surface is coupled to the target surface component; and  
at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the  
core backing component, wherein the surface area feature comprises a  
subtractive feature, an additive feature or a combination thereof, wherein the  
surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing  
component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing  
component is in contact with cooling fluid.
13. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the target material comprises a  
metal, a metal alloy or a combination thereof.
14. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 13, wherein the metal or metal alloy  
comprises a transition metal.
15. (Currently Amended) The sputtering target of claim [[14]] 12, wherein transition  
metal or metal alloy comprises copper, aluminum or titanium.
16. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one subtractive

feature comprises at least one concentric indentation.

17. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one subtractive feature comprises a dimple.
18. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one subtractive feature comprises a plurality of linear channels.
19. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one additive feature comprises a plurality of linear ridges or protrusions.
20. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one additive feature comprises a bump.
21. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 12, wherein the at least one additive feature comprises at least one concentric ridge or protrusion.
22. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a sputtering target, comprising:
  - providing a target surface component comprising a surface material;
  - providing a core backing component comprising a backing material and having a coupling surface and a back surface;
  - providing at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the back surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid; and
  - coupling the surface target component to the coupling surface of the core backing component.
23. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a sputtering target, comprising:
  - providing a target surface component comprising a surface material;

providing a core backing component comprising a backing material and having a coupling surface and a back surface;

providing at least one surface area feature coupled to or located in the coupling surface of the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective surface area of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid; and

coupling the surface target component to the coupling surface of the core backing component.

24. (Currently Amended) A sputtering target, comprising:

an integrated target surface component and core backing component, wherein the surface component and the backing component comprise the same target material; and

at least one surface area feature that is on or integrated into the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective component of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid.

25. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 24, wherein the target material comprises a metal, a metal alloy or a combination thereof.
26. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 25, wherein the metal or metal alloy comprises a transition metal.
27. (Currently Amended) The sputtering target of claim [[26]] 25, wherein the ~~transition metal~~ or metal alloy comprises copper, aluminum or titanium
28. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 24, wherein the at least one surface area feature comprises at least one concave feature, at least one convex feature or a combination thereof.

29. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises at least one concentric indentation.
30. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises a dimple.
31. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises a plurality of linear channels.
32. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a plurality of linear ridges or protrusions.
33. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a bump.
34. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 28, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises at least one concentric ridge or protrusion.
35. (Currently Amended) A sputtering target, comprising:  
an integrated target surface component and core backing component, wherein the sputtering target comprises a target material gradient; and  
at least one surface area feature that is located on or integrated into the core backing component, wherein the surface area feature increases the effective component of the core backing component, and wherein all of the effective surface area of the core backing component is in contact with cooling fluid.
36. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 35, wherein the target material comprises a metal, a metal alloy or a combination thereof.
37. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 36, wherein the metal or metal alloy comprises a transition metal.
38. (Currently Amended) The sputtering target of claim [[37]] 36, wherein the transition metal or metal alloy comprises copper, aluminum or titanium.

39. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 35, wherein the at least one surface area feature comprises at least one concave feature, at least one convex feature or a combination thereof.
40. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises at least one concentric indentation.
41. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises a dimple.
42. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one concave feature comprises a plurality of linear channels.
43. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a plurality of linear ridges or protrusions.
44. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises a bump.
45. (Original) The sputtering target of claim 39, wherein the at least one convex feature comprises at least one concentric ridge or protrusion.